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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LANSING



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tarrant Named New Director of State Radio System

Lansing -- Michigan Department of Information Technology (MDIT) Director Teri Takai is pleased to announce the selection of Robert C. Tarrant as the new director of the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS). Formerly the Emergency Management Coordinator for the Department of Agriculture (MDA), Tarrant begins his new assignment on Monday, May 24.

As Director of the MPSCS, Tarrant will oversee the state-of-the-art public safety radio system that serves the needs of federal, state and local first responders in the State of Michigan. Owned and operated by the State of Michigan, the MPSCS is a 182-tower digital trunked two-way radio system that provides 97-percent mobile radio coverage statewide. The MPSCS currently staffs 24 management, administrative and clerical personnel, as well as five system engineers and 46 radio technicians located in nine regional radio shops throughout the State of Michigan. Currently, there are 450 federal, state and local public safety agencies with approximately 11,714 radios on the system.

While serving the MDA, Tarrant oversaw and coordinated the development and implementation of the department's various emergency preparedness, response and training plans. Prior to joining MDA, Tarrant worked for Michigan State University as an academic specialist, developing outreach programs relating to public and private sector security, law enforcement and public safety. Tarrant retired from the Michigan State Police (MSP) in 1998 after a 25-year career. He served the MSP in numerous positions, including division commander of the Emergency Management Division, assistant state fire marshal, and as a member of the Emergency Support (SWAT) Team. While commander of the Emergency Management Division, Tarrant formed the Michigan Terrorism Task Force, the forerunner of today's Homeland Security Efforts.

Tarrant holds a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University and a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing. He has also completed Master's level coursework in criminal justice administration at the University of Detroit.

Tarrant and his family reside in Haslett.

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